HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR NATION’S CONGRESS**

Read each of the questions on the front of this sheet, and match the correct answers (letters A – F) to the appropriate questions. One question will have two correct answer choices.

**How does the Constitution of the United States define and limit legislative power?**

**How are laws passed?**

**THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

**How does the legislative branch participate in the system of checks and balances?**

**How does the census influence congressional representation?**

**How do interest groups influence the legislative process?**

A. Every ten years, the United States conducts a count of the population of the country. As a result of the census, Congressional districts are redrawn.

B. Laws are passed by the United States Congress. An act must be introduced by a congressional representative, pass through the committee process, receive a majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and then be signed into law by the President. There are a host of more subtle details that can undermine the lawmaking process.

C. The legislative branch has the power to impeach both the President and sitting members of the Supreme Court for “high crimes and misdemeanors.” It also must approve any Presidential appointments to high office, the Supreme Court, or to embassies.

D. The legislative branch can override a Presidential veto with a two-thirds majority vote.

E. Special interest groups and lobbyists are able to gain access to members of Congress. They may raise money to advertise for or against candidates; therefore, candidates must be responsive to certain groups if they want to be re-elected and stay in office.

F. Article One of the Constitution deals specifically with the powers and limits of power for the Congress of the United States.

**Skim through pages 136 – 142 in your textbook. How does the Constitution of the United States define and limit legislative power? Give at least five (5) examples of powers which are granted to the Congress in the Constitution. Then, list at least five (5) powers which are denied to the Congress.**

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